

**AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS:**

The attached four (4) sheet(s) of drawings are formal drawings. These four (4) sheets, which includes FIGURES 1–4, replace the original sheets including FIGURES 1–4.

Attachments: Four (4) Replacement Sheets

### **REMARKS**

This amendment is responsive to the Office Action of March 27, 2006.  
Reexamination and reconsideration of the application are respectfully requested.

#### **The Office Action**

The **Drawings** stand objected to by the Examiner.

**Claims 16, 19, and 29** stand objected to for informalities.

**Claims 1, 8–10, 16, 17, and 25–29** stand rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Gohlke (US 2004/0061379).

**Claims 2–6, 13–15, and 18–24** stand rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Gohlke in view of Gerlach (US 2002/0054465).

**Claims 7, 11, and 12** stand rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Gohlke in view of Allman (US Patent No. 5,410,441).

#### **Drawings**

Applicants have included four (4) replacement sheets of drawings to overcome the Examiner's objections to Figures 1–4. These replacement sheets represent formal drawings for Figures 1–4.

#### **Claim Objections**

Applicants have amended **claims 16, 19, and 29** to overcome the Examiner's objections.

**The Claims of the Present Application Distinguish Over the Cited References**

**Claim 1** recites a means for absorbing that includes a plurality of metal oxide varistors having different voltage ratings.

Neither Gohlke nor Allman discloses, or is concerned with, a metal oxide varistor. Although Gerlach discloses the use of metal oxide varistors, that reference fails to disclose, and is not concerned with, metal oxide varistors having different voltage ratings, as recited in **claim 1**. Therefore, **claim 1** and **claims 2–5 and 7–9**, which depend therefrom, are patentable over Gohlke, Gerlach, and Allman, either taken alone or in any combination.

**Claim 10** recites a means for absorbing that includes a plurality of metal oxide varistors having different voltage ratings. As discussed above, none of Gohlke, Gerlach, or Allman discloses or is concerned with a plurality of metal oxide varistors having different voltage ratings. Therefore, **claim 10** and **claims 11–15**, which depend therefrom, are patentable over Gohlke, Gerlach, and Allman, either taken alone or in any combination.

**Claim 16** recites a means for absorbing that includes a plurality of metal oxide varistors having different voltage ratings. As discussed above, neither Gohlke nor Gerlach discloses or is concerned with a plurality of metal oxide varistors having different voltage ratings. Therefore, **claim 16** and **claims 17–20**, which depend therefrom, are patentable over Gohlke and Gerlach, either taken alone or in combination.

**Claim 21** recites a plurality of metal oxide varistors having different voltage ratings. As discussed above, neither Gohlke nor Gerlach discloses or is concerned with a plurality of metal oxide varistors having different voltage ratings. Therefore, **claim 21** and **claim 24**, which depends therefrom, are patentable over Gohlke and Gerlach, either taken alone or in combination.

**Claim 25** recites absorbing a second portion of a voltage transient at an input connector with a plurality of metal oxide varistors having different voltage ratings. As discussed above, Gohlke fails to disclose, and is concerned with, a plurality of metal oxide

varistors having different voltage ratings. Therefore, **claim 25** and **claims 26–29**, which depends therefrom, are patentable over Gohlke.

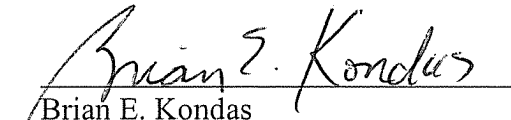
**CONCLUSION**

For the foregoing reasons, it is submitted that the claims of the present application are in condition for allowance. Early notice thereof is respectfully requested.

It is believed that there is no fee associated with the filing and consideration of this amendment. Should the Commissioner decide that any fee or fee deficiency is due, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any and all such other fees incurred as a result of entering this amendment and response to deposit account number 03-0172.

Respectfully submitted,

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